UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/ICEF/1991/P/L.37
26 March 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND
Programme Committee
1991 session

FOR ACTION

RECOMMENDATION TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Interregional fund for programme preparation, promotion and evaluation

The Executive Director recommends that the Executive Board approve the interregional fund for programme preparation, promotion and evaluation for the period 1991-1993 in the amount of $26.2 million from general resources.

READEX FICHE

I. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

1. The interregional fund for programme preparation (IFP) was established in 1962 to enable UNICEF to work closely with government ministries of the countries with which it cooperates in the preparatory work leading to the formulation of national policies, in the preparation of programmes for strengthening services benefiting children and in the assessment of current activities, as well as in the exchange of experience between regions and different countries. While programme preparation at the country level would normally be financed from country programme funds, IFP has enabled such preparation to proceed without delay where they are not available.

2. In 1985, the fund was renamed the "interregional fund for programme preparation, promotion and evaluation" (IFPPE) to reflect the expansion of support to encompass programme evaluation as approved by the Executive Board in 1984, and, as approved by the Board in 1985, programme promotion such as the production and distribution of the annual State of the World's Children reports and support to non-governmental organizations (NGOs), international gatherings of decision makers and opinion makers, media communicators and institutions and, most recently, parliamentarians, as decided by the Board in 1989. Over the last few years, experience has shown that these individuals and institutions play a vital role in the mobilization of broad support for child survival and development (CSD) action, which later grows into support for children and women at the country, regional and global levels.

3. In previous years, the programme recommendations for IFPPE included activities at both global and headquarters levels and actions at the regional level. This year the programme recommendation has been separated into two recommendations: the present recommendation, reflecting activities only at global and headquarters levels; and a separate recommendation for regional support for programme preparation, promotion and evaluation (see E/ICEF/1991/P/L.38). In the previous biennium, the Executive Board approved an amount of $15.5 million per year ($9.9 million for headquarters and $5.6 million for the regions) and an additional allocation of $1.6 million for 1989 for previously unforeseen activities, including the convening of the World Conference on Education for All, the Innocenti symposium on breast-feeding, the UNICEF history project, programme information management and additional printing costs for Facts for Life.

4. The present programme recommendation includes activities to be carried out only at the global and headquarters levels in the amount of $12.5 million per year, an increase of $2.6 million per year from the previous biennium. Although only $2.6 million has been requested in additional allocations, increased allocations are being made for evaluations ($800,000), United Nations inter-agency collaboration ($600,000), Facts for Life ($300,000), breast-feeding promotion ($300,000), a proposed costs and economics unit ($450,000), the State of the World's Children report ($500,000) and programme information management ($200,000), amounting to a total of $3.25 million. The difference in funding will be made up through suppression of activities that are no longer necessary.

/...

5. During the period 1992-1993, IFPPE will support more evaluations of UNICEF programmes of cooperation and encompass operations research in the Evaluation Office, strengthen the exchange of knowledge and experience, consolidate support activities in both programme and operations areas, improve further programme promotion activities and respond to opportunities offered. The two new areas of activities will involve work on costs and economics aspects of programmes and strengthening United Nations inter-agency collaboration, as embodied in various resolutions of the General Assembly and the Executive Board. IFPPE will be used especially to support innovative ideas and actions in pursuit of the goals for children and development in the 1990s, as approved by the Executive Board and endorsed by the World Summit for Children. The proposed activities and related expenditures are summarized in table 1 below.

Table 1

(In thousands of United States dollars)

Activities	1992	1993
Studies and evaluations		
Global studies	250	250
Programme manual	50	50
Evaluation	1 800	1 800
Subtotal	2 100	2 100
Special programme areas		
Adjustment with a human face	600	600
Facts for Life	650	450
Programme publications	650	650
Convention on the Rights of the Child	260	260
Programme information management	500	500
History project	250	250
Subtotal	2 910	2 710
Cooperation with other agencies		
Information base and statistics	400	400
Rehabilitation International	140	160
Sub-Committee on Nutrition of the Administrative Committee on Coordination	100	100
Resource institutions	500	500
United Nations inter-agency collaboration	630	660
Subtotal	1 770	1 820

/...

Table 1 (continued)

Activities	1992	1993
Programme support, knowledge networks and experience exchange		
Primary health care	300	300
Vitamin A	170	180
Breast-feeding	500	500
Household food security	200	200
Urban basic services	100	100
Women in development	200	200
Water supply and sanitation	135	135
Programme communication	160	160
Social mobilization	500	500
Programming support	580	720
Cost and economics	450	450
Subtotal	3 295	3 445
Programme promotion		
State of the World's Children	1 500	1 500
Support for NGOs	425	425
Support for parliamentarians	500	500
Subtotal	2 425	2 425
Total	12 500	12 500

6. Owing to unforeseen circumstances, support will be required in 1991 for some activities that were unplanned or underbudgeted two years ago. These activities include the promotion and protection of breast-feeding, the establishment of a costs and economics unit and the expansion and consolidation of United Nations inter-agency collaboration. The International Child Development Centre's high-level seminars on "Protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding", co-sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Swedish International Development Agency and UNICEF, and whose plan of action was later endorsed by the World Summit for Children, created momentum among the international community and NGOs. The objective of exclusive breast-feeding for four to six months, with complementary feeding up to and beyond two years of age, has become a possibility in many countries with the support of UNICEF and other concerned organizations. In the implementation of the goals for the 1990s, the awareness of the cost implications of all actions has become an imperative. UNICEF hopes to establish a modest three-person unit on costs and economics to work on the cost implications of different programme actions and the options appraisal that is currently in UNICEF. The third additional area will be the strengthening of United Nations inter-agency collaboration, especially in following up on various resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Executive Board. This will entail establishment of a unit, consisting of three Professional staff, which will undoubtedly strengthen this dimension of development cooperation. The new allocations required during 1991 are shown in table 2 below:

Table 2

	United States dollars
Breast-feeding	400 000
Costs and economics unit	400 000
United Nations inter-agency collaboration	400 000
Total	1 200 000

7. IFPPE is the main source of funds for UNICEF interregional activities and several of its regional activities. IFPPE expenditures continue to reflect the increasing volume and diversity of UNICEF cooperation, greater efforts to relate this cooperation more closely to national development policy and plans and its catalytic role in further mobilizing investment in children and women. A summary of the activities undertaken through IFPPE in 1990 and 1991 will be in the report on the use of global funds in 1992, as requested by the Executive Board.

II. INTERREGIONAL ACTIVITIES

A. Studies and evaluations

8. The Executive Board has continually accorded high priority to prospective studies and evaluations as a means of learning from grass-roots experiences and of improving the impact, effectiveness and efficiency of programme delivery. Successive Boards have strongly stressed and supported strengthening evaluation activities. The Evaluation Office will now be further charged with coordinating the operations research activities of UNICEF. The proposed expenditures, indicating a substantial increase, will strengthen activities in the areas of thematic evaluations, planning and improving evaluation skills and the introduction of operations research on an organization-wide scale, leading to improved programmes that will be even more relevant to the needs of each country situation.

9. Global studies of patterns of UNICEF cooperation or changes in the condition of children and their needs have contributed to Executive Board reviews of programme policy. Such studies will be undertaken during 1992 and 1993, on subjects to be determined by the Board. During those years, it is likely that the studies might include the operationalization and achievements of the goals for the 1990s, modes of programme delivery for reaching the unreached, newly emerging problems in different geographical regions and social sectors and costs and financing issues. The programme components of UNICEF field manuals are being constantly revised and updated. The programme manuals cover UNICEF programme policy, strategy and operations, including programme preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. They also provide guidance in major fields of UNICEF cooperation through sectoral volumes of different subjects. The requested allocation is for the issue of the revised and updated volumes. An allocation of $4.2 million is proposed to support these studies and evaluations.

B. Special programme areas

10. The Executive Board has continuously expressed its concern regarding the human impact of adjustment policies and has endorsed the need for "adjustment with a human face". The concept has now received widespread support and is increasingly accepted by international financial institutions and bilateral aid agencies. The proposed allocation will further support its operationalization, where relevant. The proposed allocations will also support global advocacy to promote an understanding of, and respect for the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

11. Facts for Life is now part of most UNICEF country programmes and has been translated into more than 80 languages. It is estimated that more than 2 million copies have been distributed, including many nationally adapted versions. The proposed allocation will be used to prepare a revised edition and to publish four international core language editions. UNICEF has also instituted a series of programme publications, including Assignment Children,

policy reviews, conference reports, staff working papers and occasional papers, in order to disseminate its policy and experience and also to establish a dialogue with other working partners. Moreover, in order to manage its programme information better, UNICEF in 1989 introduced a new programme information management system, including the introduction of a new programme coding system, which provides much more of the detailed information required for better management. The period 1992-1993 will see further improvement of the system through modifications, as required. The history project is now in operation to record data that will be useful for archival purposes, to record major events and experience for posterity and to feed back into the current programming process. For all the activities in special programme areas, an allocation of $5.62 million is proposed for the biennium.

C. Cooperation with other agencies

12. While cooperation between UNICEF and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was supported by IFPPE in the past, it has been supported by the Basic Education Reserve since 1990. Because of the increased magnitude of the actions required for follow-up to the World Conference on Education for All, support for basic education and UNESCO/UNICEF cooperation are now consolidated in the Basic Education Reserve.

13. More effective use of domestic and external resources in services benefiting children requires a good, regularly updated information base and improved monitoring, based on simple indicators that can be used at national, provincial and district or local levels, as well as at inter-country levels for comparison. The need for a better information base and statistics and improved monitoring has become even more pronounced with the adoption of the goals for the 1990s. UNICEF is collaborating with the United Nations Statistical Office to provide guidance to Governments and UNICEF offices in the use of statistics for children and women's programmes, along the general lines recommended by the United Nations Statistical Commission. UNICEF also works closely with the United Nations Population Division in various demographic matters. UNICEF plans to continue these activities in cooperation with other international and bilateral agencies, under the general coordination of the United Nations.

14. With the momentum generated by the International Year of Disabled Persons in 1982, UNICEF has been active in promoting and initiating work on the prevention, early detection and community-based rehabilitation of childhood disabilities with the assistance of Rehabilitation International. UNICEF will continue to receive support from Rehabilitation International in implementing the policy on these activities, including assistance to the country programming process, continued identification of innovative projects and experiences, exchange of experiences and continued publication of One in Ten and other information materials. These materials serve as advocacy tools and also facilitate exchanges of experience on programme measures. During the biennium, support will be further strengthened for prosthetics and orthoptics activities for children who have suffered in the armed conflicts of their countries.

15. UNICEF is an active partner in the Subcommittee on Nutrition of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, which requires an annual contribution for operational expenses. UNICEF also plans to work closely with resource institutions in both developing and industrialized countries for support to child survival, protection and development measures. UNICEF will continue to draw upon the long experience in child development of the International Children's Centre in Paris. Beginning in 1991, UNICEF has further strengthened inter-agency collaboration through strengthened staff support to follow-up on resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Executive Board in this area. With this added capacity, UNICEF will be able to respond better to all the measures being undertaken through inter-agency collaboration. An allocation of $3.59 million is proposed to support these cooperative activities with different agencies.

D. Programme support, knowledge networks and experience exchange

16. In fields of activities with which UNICEF has become involved, and where in-house expertise is available, project staff are being appointed to develop implementation strategies, interface with concerned agencies and institutions and facilitate the initiation of programme actions at the country level until they are integrated into the country programmes. Since such activities are likely to be time-bound, IFPPE has been used to provide the means of programme support. IFPPE is also used to identify and/or initiate innovative programme activities on a limited scale until they are large enough to justify a separate programme.

17. Learning from and sharing the experience of grass-roots programmes remain a continuing priority for UNICEF. Both formal and informal networking have played an important role within UNICEF in reviewing evolving experiences in certain fields and disseminating information on actions that improve programme planning or delivery across country boundaries. These networks are also used in preparing policy-oriented papers required by the Executive Board and in implementing Board policies. UNICEF has not only established internal networking, but has also established links with external institutions and individuals for regular exchanges of opinions and consultation.

18. The role of programme advisory support networks is being continually examined, with the focus shifting to support at the country level. The number of networks varies depending on the state of knowledge and the nature of demands. The networks continue to share the experience of multisectoral actions that have resulted in the formulation of national policies directly benefiting children, expanding coverage to reach the whole country, means of reaching the unreached and the disadvantaged, etc. Experience sharing is achieved mainly through the print and visual media and through workshops and seminars.

19. During this biennium, it is envisaged that increased support will be provided to protect, promote and support breast-feeding. The Innocenti Declaration on the Protection, Promotion and Support for Breast-feeding has created a significant momentum in many countries. It is hoped that these activities could lead to the adoption of "10 steps to breast-feeding" at all maternity facilities by 1995. IFPPE will be used to provide strengthened support to consolidate this emerging trend. IFPPE will also be used to continue the work of the proposed costs and economics unit, which will promote awareness of the cost-effectivenesss of programme actions and also encourage the adoption of the practice of options appraisal, based on cost and other factors. A sum of $6.74 million is proposed for these activities of programme support, knowledge networks and experience exchange.

E. Global programme promotion

20. The strategic imperative of child survival, protection and development activities is the creation of public support by mobilizing allies to undertake their own initiatives and empowering parents and communities with knowledge that can help them to act on behalf of their own children. At international, regional and country levels, these efforts have reinforced and prepared the groundwork for child survival, protection and development programmes where an important precondition has been the commitment of political, professional and civic leaders. Global promotion activities have included support for international, and sometimes regional, gatherings of local and national leaders, parliamentarians and legislators, paediatricians, editors, journalists, artists and intellectuals and major NGOs, as well as "seed money" for generating regional and country-level initiatives. Now that the objectives for children have broadened into seven major goals and 20 supporting goals, the involvement and support of NGOs and the above groups have become even more important.

21. A major undertaking in global promotion has been the production of the annual report on the State of the World's Children, which, during recent years, has become the most widely publicized and used publication of the United Nations system. It also serves as a significant instrument of direct advocacy, articulating and documenting the child survival, protection and development strategy and other child-related issues. The production of the State of the World's Children report also encompasses a range of materials, including press kits, graphic packs, leaflets and a commercially published book. Enhanced with additional chapters of statistics and technical matters, and presented as attractively and accessibly as possible, the book is also co-published and commercially marketed.

22. The report has played a considerable part in advancing CSD and other child-related principles and programme initiatives among political, professional, media and civic leaders, civic groups and NGOs. It is now produced in over 40 language versions and distributed in 158 countries. It has contributed to putting the child on the political agenda. The widespread impact of these reports can be seen in the attention now received for children at global, regional and country levels.

23. Since 1985, global programme promotion activities have been funded through IFPPE, and an allocation of $4.85 million is proposed for 1992-1993 in order to continue the efficient promotion of these efforts, including the production and distribution of the reports on the State of the World's Children, and support to working with major NGOs and parliamentarians.